

Senate Bill 272

By: Senator Robertson of the 29th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to schedules, offenses, and penalties regarding the regulation of
3 controlled substances, so as to prohibit the sale to and by minors of drug products containing
4 dextromethorphan; to provide for definitions; to provide for proper identification; to provide
5 for a list of finished drug products; to provide for penalties; to provide for statutory
6 construction; to provide for state regulation; to provide for limited liability; to provide for
7 related matters; to provide an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and
8 for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

11 Part 1 of Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
12 relating to schedules, offenses, and penalties regarding the regulation of controlled
13 substances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

14 "16-13-30.7.

15 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

16 (1) 'Finished drug product' means a drug legally marketed under the Federal Food, Drug,
17 and Cosmetic Act that is in finished dosage form.

18 (2) 'Minor' means any individual under the age of 18 years.

19 (3) 'Person' means any natural person or any firm, partnership, company, corporation, or
20 other entity.

21 (4) 'Proper identification' means any document issued by a governmental agency
22 containing a description of the person, such person's photograph, or both, and giving such
23 person's date of birth and includes, without being limited to, a passport, military
24 identification card, driver's license, or identification card authorized under Code Sections
25 40-5-100 through 40-5-104. Proper identification shall not include a birth certificate.

26 (b)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly or willfully sell or trade a
27 finished drug product containing any quantity of dextromethorphan to a minor.

28 (2) It shall be unlawful for any minor to purchase a finished drug product containing any
29 quantity of dextromethorphan.

30 (c) A person making a retail sale of a finished drug product containing any quantity of
31 dextromethorphan shall require and obtain proper identification from the purchaser before
32 completing the sale.

33 (d) Any trade association representing manufacturers of over-the-counter finished drug
34 products containing dextromethorphan shall provide to any requesting retail business a list
35 of the finished drug products containing dextromethorphan marketed by the trade
36 association's members. A retail business may make a request to a trade association pursuant
37 to this subsection only once per year.

38 (e)(1) Any person that violates paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall
39 receive a warning letter from local law enforcement for the first violation and shall
40 thereafter be subject to a civil penalty by local law enforcement in an amount not to
41 exceed \$100.00 for a second violation and each subsequent violation.

42 (2) Any person that violates paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall
43 receive a warning letter from local law enforcement for the first violation and shall
44 thereafter be subject to a civil penalty by local law enforcement in an amount not to
45 exceed \$150.00 for a second violation and each subsequent violation.

46 (3) The civil penalties contained in this subsection shall be the exclusive penalties in
47 connection with a violation of this Code section, and a violation or violations shall not
48 result in a licensing action against a person by any state, county, or municipal licensing
49 board, department, or agency.

50 (f) With respect to any sale made by an employee of a retail business, the owner of the
51 retail business shall be deemed to be in compliance with the provisions of paragraph (1)
52 of subsection (b) of this Code section if the owner:

53 (1) Had no actual knowledge of the sale; and

54 (2) Establishes and carries out a continuing program of training for employees which is
55 reasonably designed to prevent violations of paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of this Code
56 section.

57 (g) This Code section shall not be construed to:

58 (1) Impose any restriction on the placement of products in a specific place within a retail
59 store or on consumers' direct access to finished drug products;

60 (2) Impose any requirement on the maintenance of transaction or verification records by
61 any person in connection with the sale of dextromethorphan; or

62 (3) Apply to a medication containing dextromethorphan that is sold pursuant to a valid
63 prescription.

64 (h) The authority to regulate dextromethorphan is reserved to the state, and, except as
65 specifically provided by statute, a municipality may not enact or enforce an ordinance
66 regulating the possession or sale of dextromethorphan.

67 (i) No person shall have a cause of action for any loss or damage caused by an act or
68 omission by a person pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section."

SECTION 2.

70 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2020, and shall apply to offenses committed on
71 or after that date.

SECTION 3.

73 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.